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Surface Transportation Board  
Attn: Docket No. EP 704  
395 E. Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20423-0001

228736

RE: Ex Part 704, Review of Commodity, Boxcar, and TOFC-COFC Exemptions

Dear Sir/Madam:

CEMEX is a global construction materials company, a significant shipper of cement, fly ash, limestone, and other commodities, and a member of the Portland Cement Association (PCA). CEMEX has reviewed the comments submitted by PCA to the Surface Transportation Board (STB) on Ex Parte 704, supports the comments, and urges the removal of commodity exemptions for construction materials.

CEMEX has worldwide headquarters in Monterrey MX, with U.S. headquarters in Houston TX. The requirements of our industry are to provide products of consistently high quality and reliable service to customers and communities. In the U.S., the majority of our products not shipped directly from the production sites are shipped by rail to distribution centers and subsequently delivered by truck to our customers. The majority of our rail routes are "captive" (i.e., no choice of rail carrier). Accordingly, CEMEX is increasingly dependent on rail transportation and seeks the removal of commodity exemptions so that fair and reasonable freight rates and service can be maintained as changes in the rail and cement industries have significantly reduced competitive transportation alternatives.

Sincerely,

Kirk R. Light  
Vice President, Logistics Planning & Transportation  
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